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PATENTS
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XOM-CON1IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
PATENT APPLICATIONS

Applicants : Thomann et al.
Application No. : 09/973,529 Confirmation No. : 6842
Filed : October 9, 2001
For : METHOD FOR BOREHOLE MEASUREMENT OF
FORMATION PROPERTIES
Group Art Unit : 2863
Examiner : Victor J. Taylor

Applicants : Thomann et al.
Application No. : 10/666,208 Confirmation No. : 8301
Filed : September 18, 2003
For : METHOD FOR BOREHOLE MEASUREMENT OF
FORMATION PROPERTIES
Group Art Unit : 2863
Examiner : Victor J. Taylor

New York, New York 10020
July 26, 2004

Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INTERVIEW SUMMARIES OF INTERVIEWS
ON MAY 20, 2004 AND JUNE 30, 2004

Sir:

Applicants wish to thank Examiners Taylor and McElheny for the courtesies extended during a May 20, 2004 personal interview at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in connection with the above-identified applications. The undersigned, along with representatives

of the owner of the above-identified applications, participated in that interview. On June 3, 2004, Examiner Taylor issued an Interview Summary based on the interview.

Applicants also wish to thank Examiner Taylor for the courtesies extended during a follow-up telephonic interview on June 30, 2004, with the undersigned. On July 2, 2004, Examiner Taylor issued an Interview Summary for the telephonic interview.

Applicants wish to address the following issues that were discussed during the interviews and by Examiner Taylor in the Interview Summaries:

Powers Of Attorney

The Examiner's June 3 Interview Summary stated that "[t]he incomplete list of attorneys of record found in application 10/666,208 is to be addressed." Applicants have filed an Associate Power of Attorney and Request for Change of Correspondence Address in each of Applications Nos. 09/686,735, 09/973,529, 10/318,786 and 10/779,885 and an Associate Power of Attorney in each of Applications Nos. 10/666,208 and 10/666,610. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that the list of attorneys of record in application 10/666,208 has been addressed.

Copendency Of Applications

The Examiner's June 3 Interview Summary stated that "[t]he priority data based on US 09/973,529 was discussed in view of the corrections to the improper RCE in case 09/973,529 to be addressed." During the June 30 telephonic interview, Examiner Taylor clarified this issue by asking whether continuation Application No. 10/666,208 was copending with Application No. 09/973,529.

Applicants believe that Application No. 10/666,208 and Application No. 09/973,529 were copending. Application No. 09/973,529 was filed on October 9, 2001 (copy of Updated Filing Receipt attached). The Examiner issued an Office Action for Application No. 09/973,529 on August 18, 2003. Continuation Application No. 10/666,208 was filed on September 18, 2003 (copy of Filing Receipt attached), just one month after the date of the August 18 Office Action for Application No. 09/973,529. Thus, Application No. 10/666,208 was filed before the due date of any reply to the August 18, 2003, Office Action for Application No. 09/973,529, and well before the Patent and Trademark Office could have deemed Application No. 09/973,529 abandoned for failure to respond to the Office Action.¹

The Examiner issued a Notice of Abandonment for Application No. 09/973,529 on July 1, 2004. Applicants are unaware of any express abandonment of Application No. 09/973,529 that occurred prior to that date. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that Application No. 10/666,208 and Application No. 09/973,529 were copending.

Information Disclosure Statement
(filed on April 15, 2004)

In the June 3 Interview Summary, the Examiner directed that "[t]he statement of relevant art in the very large IDS of application 10/666,208 is to be addressed." Accordingly, Applicants suggest that the Patent and Trademark Office consider the following references along with the other references cited in the IDS:

¹ A Petition for Extension of Time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) requesting a three-month extension from November 18, 2003, to February 18, 2004, and including instructions to charge fees to an identified Patent and Trademark Office account, was filed along with continuation Application No. 10/779,885 on February 17, 2004 (copies of stamped returned postcard and Petition attached).

Dutta, N. C., "Pressure Prediction from Seismic Data: Implications for Seal Distribution and Hydrocarbon Exploration and Exploitation in the Deepwater Gulf of Mexico", Norwegian Petroleum Society (NPF) Special Publication 7, pp. 187-199, 1997.

Kan, T. K., and Sicking, C. J., "Pre-Drill Geophysical Methods for Geopressure Detection and Evaluation", Development in Petroleum Science, 38, pp. 155-186, 1994.

Lee, S., Shaw, J., Ho, R., Burger, J., Singh, S., and Troyer, B., "Illuminating the Shadows: Tomography, Attenuation, and Pore-Pressure Processing in the South Caspian Sea", The Leading Edge, pp. 777-782, June 1998.

Manik, P., and Soedaldo, P. A., "Prediction of Abnormal Pressure Based on Seismic Data. A Case Study of Exploratory Well Drilling in Pertamina UEP I and UEP II Work Areas", Proceedings of the Thirteenth Annual Convention, pp. 461-505, Jakarta, Indonesia, May 29-30, 1984.

Pennebaker, E. S., Jr., "Seismic Data Indicate Depth, Magnitude of Abnormal Pressures", World Oil, pp. 73-77, June 1968.

Sayers, C. M., Johnson, G. M., Schlumberger, and Denyer, G., "Predrill Pressure Prediction Using Seismic Data", 2000 IADC/SPE Drilling Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, February 23-25, 2000.

Applicant respectfully submit in view of the foregoing that "the statement of relevant art" has been addressed.

Related Applications

The Examiner's June 3, Interview Summary stated that "[t]he proper line of demarcation in US applications 10/318,786 and US 10/666,208 and 10/666,610 and US 10/779,885 all continuation [sic] of US 09/973,529 are to be addressed."

Continuation applications Nos. 10/666,208 and 10/666,610 were filed in connection with a Request for Interference that Applicants filed on September 18, 2003. This Request asked that an interference be declared between Application No. 10/666,208 and U.S. Patent No. 6,473,696 ("the '696 patent"). The claims of Application No. 10/666,208 are patterned after certain claims of the '696 patent and were presented for the express purpose of provoking an interference. The claims of Application No. 10/666,610 are patterned after other claims of the '696 patent that Applicants believe to be unpatentable in view of prior art. Accordingly, Applicants filed a request for a statutory invention registration for Application No. 10/666,610 and waived their right to receive a patent for the subject matter of such claims.

Applications Nos. 09/973,529 and 10/318,786 were pending at the time Applicants filed the Request for Interference and Applications Nos. 10/666,208 and 10/666,610. Applications Nos. 09/973,529 and 10/318,786 are directed to methods of determining or estimating subsurface properties specifically using a bottom hole assembly.

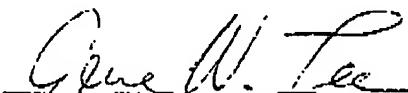
Application No. 10/779,885 was filed on February 17, 2004, and is a continuation of Application No. 09/973,529. Application No. 10/779,885 has the same claims as those of Application No. 09/973,529 before that application was abandoned.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that they have addressed the line of demarcation among their various applications.

Conclusion

Applicants believe that they have addressed the issues raised in the interviews and the Examiner's Interview Summaries. Applicants respectfully request the prompt examination of Application No. 10/666,208 and the declaration of an interference between this application and U.S. Patent No. 5,473,696.

Respectfully submitted,



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